

Appl. No. 10/829,338
Amdt. Dated August 24, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 31, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Amendment of the claims:

Claim 12 has been amended according to Fig. 11 and the specification. As Fig. 11 shows, the one end of the branch wire is able to couple with a notebook, a printer, and a scanner. So, the amended claim 12 now recites that the lock head formed on the branch wire secures an article. Claim 20 is amended according to Figs. 10-11. As Fig. 11 shows, one end of the trunk wire is coupling with the anchor object (pillar), and the first lock head at the other end of the trunk wire is secured with the other pillar. And the branch wire has a lock head for securing a notebook, a printer, or a scanner as Fig. 11 shows. Furthermore, claim 17 is cancelled and is no longer in need of consideration. Claims 24-35 have been renumbered to reflect the correct numbering of these claims. And, no new matter is added.

2. Rejection of claims 12-14, 17, 19-21, 24, 27-29, 33 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bennett.

Claims 12-14, 17, 19-21, 24, 27-29, 33 and 35 are rejected for the reasons of record that can be found on page 3 in the Office action.

Response:

The applicant's invention is related to a branch lock which has a trunk wire and a branch wire. Amended claims 12 and 20 describe that the trunk wire has a coupling section at one end of the trunk wire for coupling with an anchor object. As Fig. 11 shows, one end of trunk wire 660 is coupled with the pillar by the coupling section of the trunk wire. But Bennett (US 4,570,465) teaches a plural branch locking cable having a main cable 12 and an auxiliary cable 70. The one end of the main cable 12 is a cable stop 50, and the other end of the main cable 12 is a locking barrel 38. In Fig. 4 of Bennett (US 4,570,465), the article 100 has a hole 104 for the stop 50 to be secured. In column 4, lines 40-44 it is noted that the cable is pushed through the hole 104 until the cable stop 50 is inside the shell, and the washer collar

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54 is against the shell. The crimp element 60 is fitted over the cable 12 and is slid against the shell 106 and is crimped on the cable there. There are three main reasons why the applicant's invention is different from Bennett (US 4,570,465).

5 (1) The main cable 12 of Bennett (US 4,570,465) doesn't have a coupling section, but the applicant's invention does. So, Bennett (US 4,570,465) uses cable stop 50 for securing the article. However, the applicant's invention uses the trunk wire passing through the coupling section to form a circle for coupling with an anchor object. These two cases use different elements and different securing methods.

10 (2) The article 100 in the embodiment of Bennett (US 4,570,465) has a hole 104 for receiving the cable stop 50 inside the shell. Because Bennett (US 4,570,465) uses the cable stop 50 to be secured with the article, the article must have the hole for the cable stop 50. That means the article must have a hole drilled in it for the cable stop 50. But, the applicant's invention doesn't need to destroy the anchor object, and only needs to form a circle with the trunk wire for securing the anchor object.

15 (3) The elements of Bennett (US 4,570,465) are more complex form the applicant's invention. Bennett (US 4,570,465) uses the cable stop 50, a collar 54, a crimp element 60, a thin sleeve 50, and a terminating wide collar 53 to be secured with the article. But, the applicant's invention only uses the coupling section of the trunk wire.

20 Thus, the amended claims 12 and 20 are patentably distinguishable from Bennett (US 4,570,465). Reconsideration of the amended claims is politely requested.

3. Rejection of claims 19, 27, 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Bennett in view of Derman.

Claims 19, 27, 28 are rejected for the reasons of record that can be found on page 3 in the Office action.

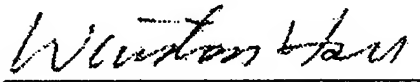
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Derman (US 6,646,734) is difficult to combine with Bennett (US 4,570,465) since the main cable 50 of Bennett (US 4,570,465) has a cable stop 50 and a locking barrel 38 in its two ends. That limits the ability of the main cable 50 of Bennett (US 4,570,465) to get into the device of Derman (US 6,646,734). And, the amended claims 12, 20 are patentably
5 distinguishable from Bennett (US 4,570,465) by the above-mentioned reasons. Their dependent claims are also patentable.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

10 Sincerely yours,



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20 Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)